Archie 65TH ANNIVERSARY

THE WAY PAST "X"-CELLENT COMIC!

TARGET: SONIC

#23

$2.25 US

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SONIC X™

DIRECT EDITION

Hedgehogging Their Bets

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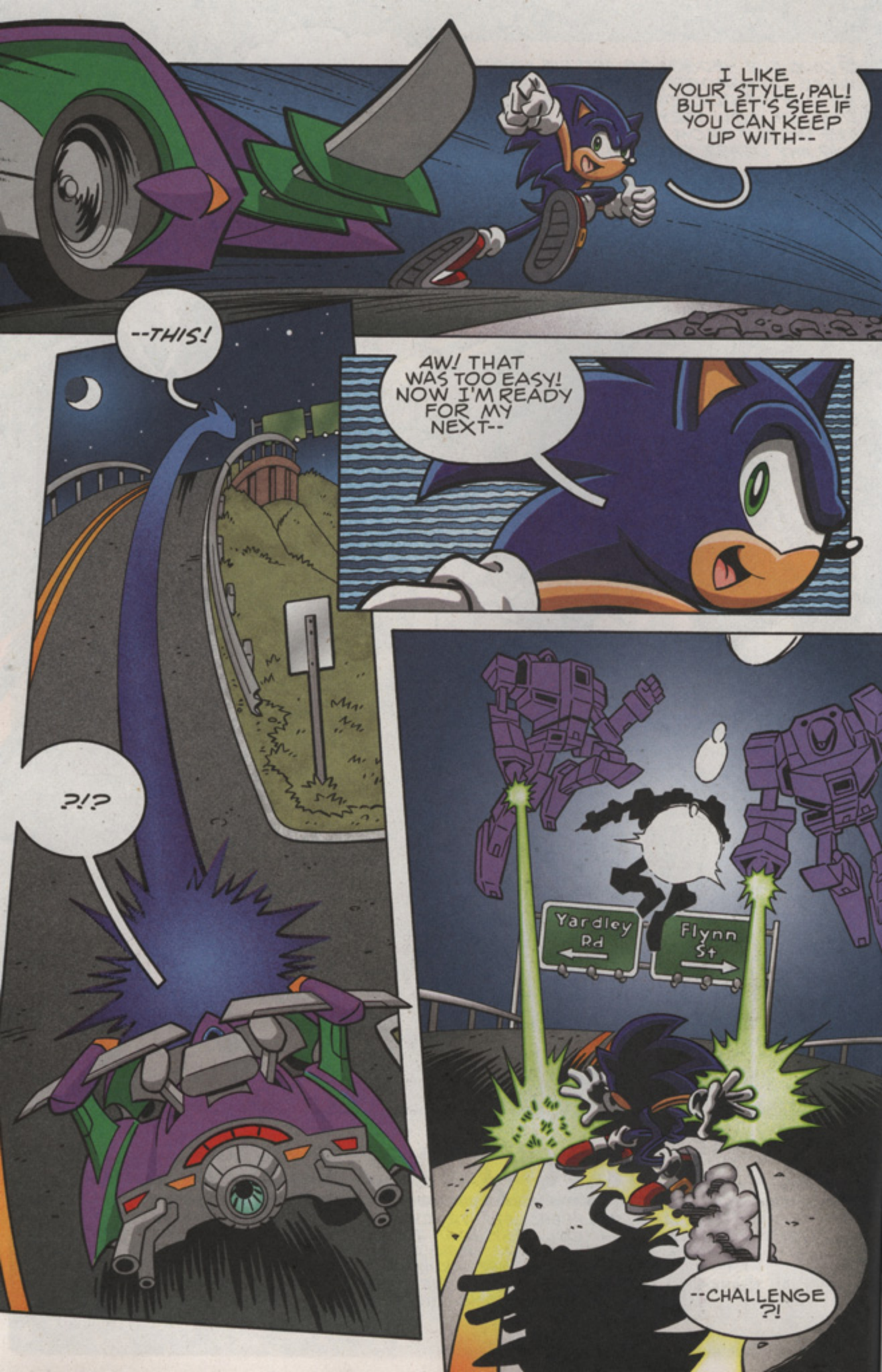
AT SEGA LICENSING AND SEGA STUDIO USA


I LIKE YOUR STYLE, PAL! BUT LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH--
--THIS!
AW! THAT WAS TOO EASY! NOW I'M READY FOR MY NEXT--
?!?
Yardley Rd
Flynn St
--CHALLENGE ?!

ME AND MY BIG MOUTH! LOOKS LIKE I'M STUCK BETWEEN A 'BOT...

...AND A FAST PACE! TIME TO THINK FAST!

OF COURSE, I ALWAYS THINK FAST. EVERY-THING I DO IS FAST.
PAF
PAF

KA-BLAM!

CATCH YOU LATER, CHAMP. THIS IS MY EXIT!

WHOA!

RUMBLE

IT'S SOME KIND OF PRISON!

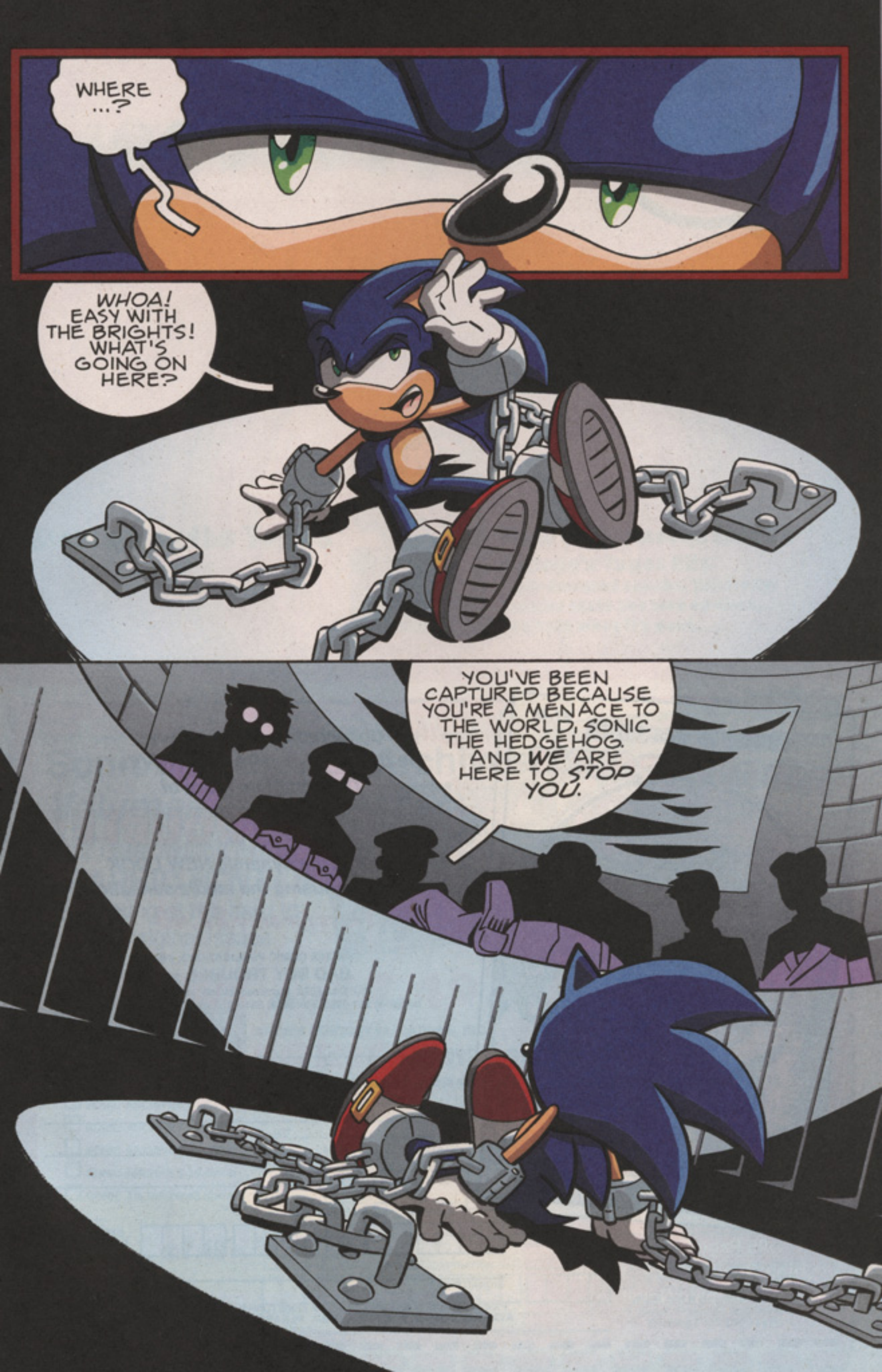
HSSK!

PUH! AND NOW GAS! I'M GETTING... REALLY...

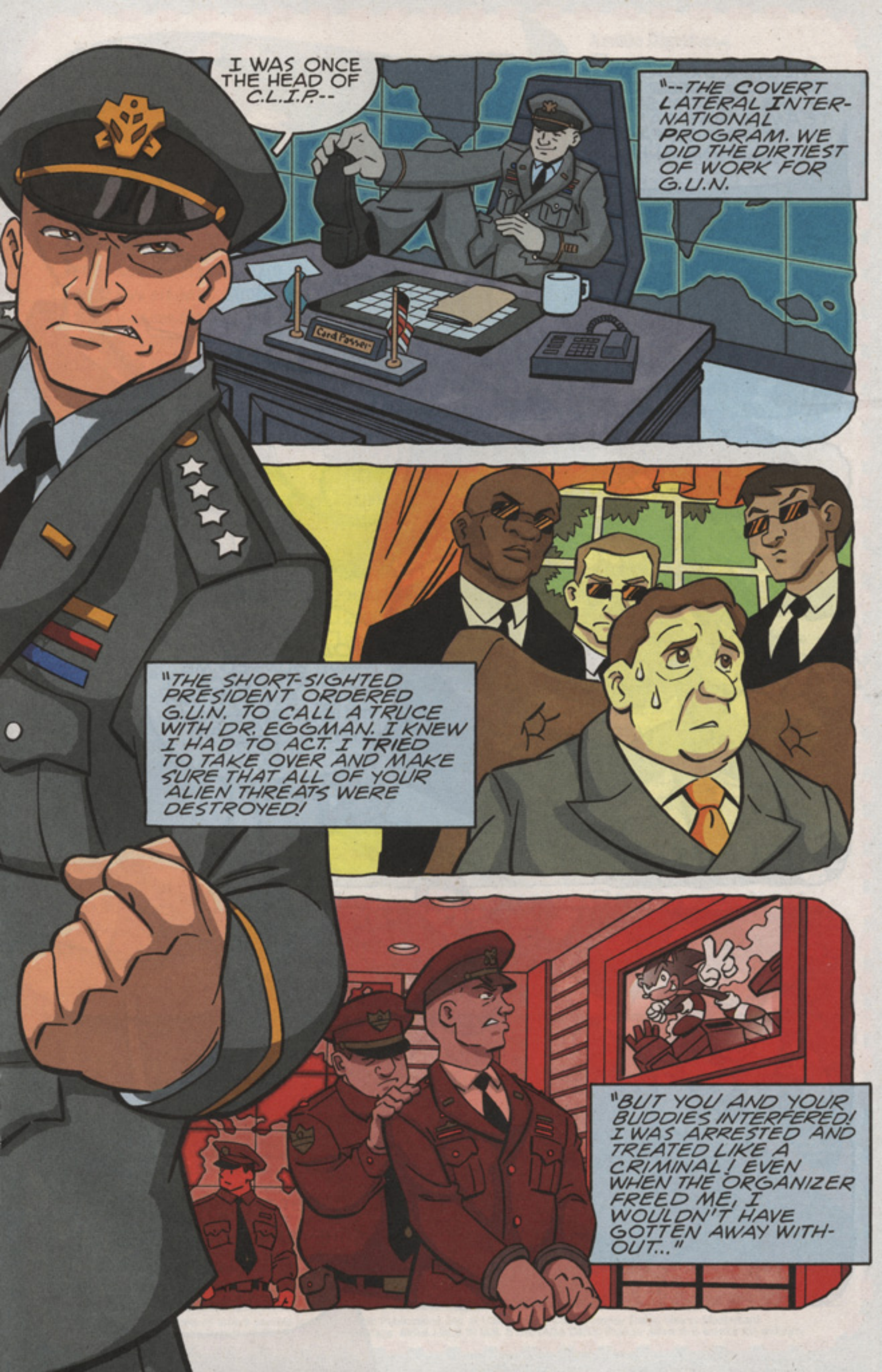
...TIRED...

...OF...

...THIS...

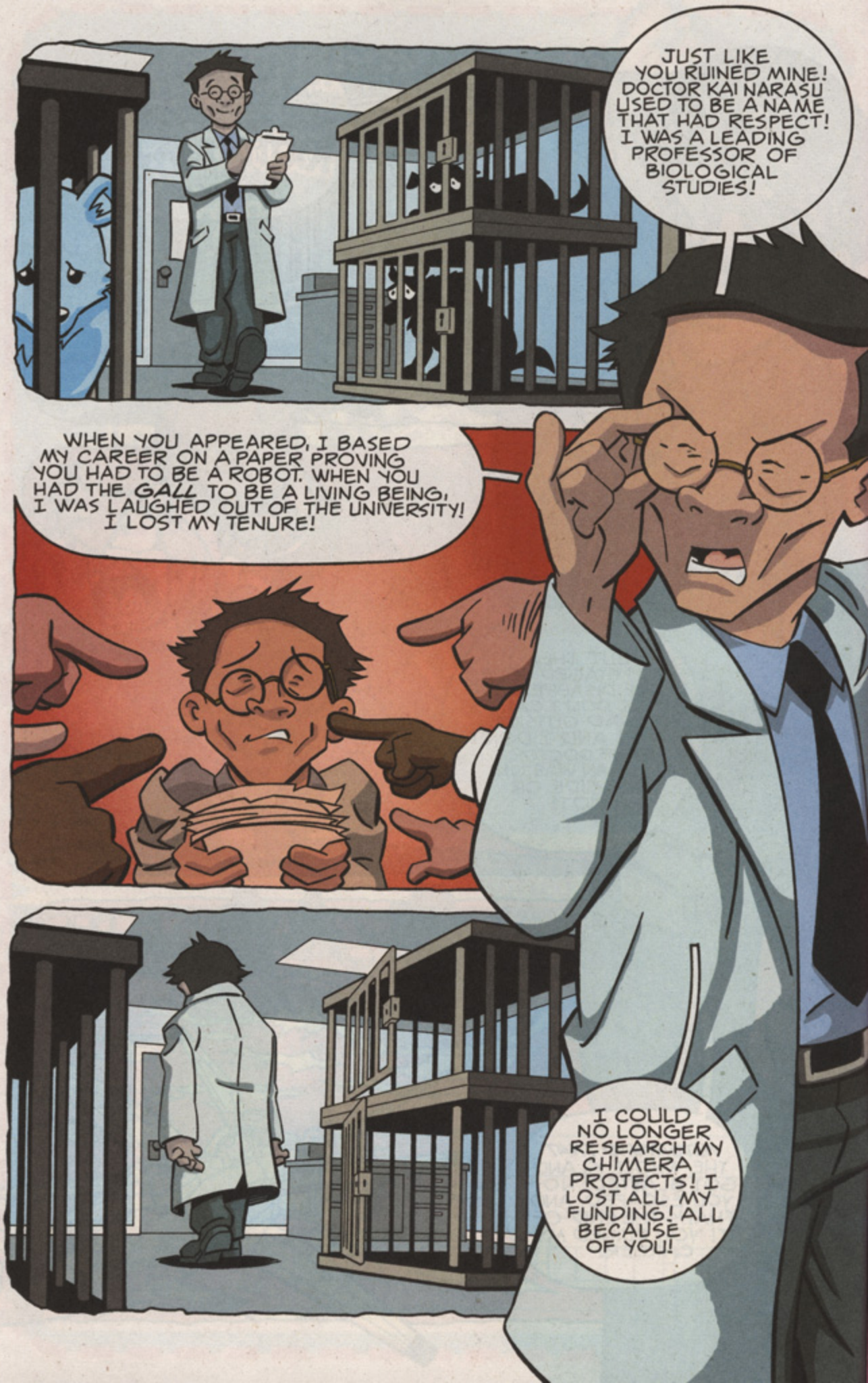

WHERE ...?
WHOA! EASY WITH THE BRIGHTS! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
YOU'VE BEEN CAPTURED BECAUSE YOU'RE A MENACE TO THE WORLD, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG. AND WE ARE HERE TO STOP YOU.

MENACE? ME? BUT I SAVE THE WORLD. A LOT.
A TIRED EXCUSE FOR HELPING TO RUN THE WORLD RAGGED WITH DR. EGGMAN. THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION FOR YOUR ACTIONS!
LUCKY FOR US, THE ORGANIZER FOUND AND BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER. KINDRED SPIRITS--ALL RUINED BY YOU!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I DON'T RECOGNIZE ANY OF YOU GUYS.
THE SHADOWS DON'T HELP MATTERS.
YOU IMPUDENT LITTLE...! FINE! WE'LL REMIND YOU!


I WAS ONCE THE HEAD OF C.L.I.P.--
"--THE COVERT LATERAL INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM. WE DID THE DIRTIEST OF WORK FOR G.U.N.
Card Passer
"THE SHORT-SIGHTED PRESIDENT ORDERED G.U.N. TO CALL A TRUCE WITH DR. EGGMAN. I KNEW I HAD TO ACT. I TRIED TO TAKE OVER AND MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF YOUR ALIEN THREATS WERE DESTROYED!
"BUT YOU AND YOUR BUDDIES INTERFERED! I WAS ARRESTED AND TREATED LIKE A CRIMINAL! EVEN WHEN THE ORGANIZER FREED ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITHOUT..."

HECTOR DRAGG AT THEIR SERVICE. I USED TO BE PART OF THE STATION SQUARE SPEED TEAM. I WAS SAM'S BIGGEST RIVAL FOR FASTEST MAN ALIVE...
...UNTIL YOU SHOWED UP! YOU BUMPED ME TO THIRD PLACE! I TRIED EVERYTHING TO OUT-RACE BOTH YOU AND SAM SPEED...
SAM SAID I WAS GETTING RECKLESS... THAT I WAS ENDANGERING LIVES. SO HE FIRED ME. BUT NOW I'VE GOT YOU WITH THE HELP OF...

HOWARD WATCHER--WARDEN EXTRAORDINAIRE! NOBODY HAD EVER ESCAPED UNDER MY WATCH AT PRISON ISLAND! NOBODY!
BUT THEN YOU STAGED YOUR LITTLE DISAPPEARING ACT! I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAD OUTSIDE HELP! AND I DON'T CARE IF DOCTOR EGGMAN WAS ON YOUR SIDE OR NOT!
NEVERMIND THAT THE WHOLE ISLAND GOT BLASTED! NO--YOU ESCAPED, AND THAT'S THE END OF IT! YOU RUINED MY CAREER!


JUST LIKE YOU RUINED MINE! DOCTOR KAI NARASU USED TO BE A NAME THAT HAD RESPECT! I WAS A LEADING PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGICAL STUDIES!
WHEN YOU APPEARED, I BASED MY CAREER ON A PAPER PROVING YOU HAD TO BE A ROBOT. WHEN YOU HAD THE GALL TO BE A LIVING BEING, I WAS LAUGHED OUT OF THE UNIVERSITY! I LOST MY TENURE!
I COULD NO LONGER RESEARCH MY CHIMERA PROJECTS! I LOST ALL MY FUNDING! ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, BIG GUY? I KNOW I'VE NEVER MET YOU.
YOU HAVE NOT, AND I DOUBT THE NAME OF *LI YAN* MEANS ANYTHING TO YOU. YOUR FRIEND KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA SLIPPED THROUGH THE GRASP OF MY GANG AND TOOK A CHAOS EMERALD I WAS LOOKING FOR. I WON'T STAND THAT KIND OF EMBARRASSMENT, AND I'LL GET BACK AT HIM THROUGH YOU, IF NEED BE.

AND THEN THERE'S ME. YOU SHOULD RECOGNIZE ME, SONIC.
"I WAS THE PRESIDENT'S TOP AIDE UNTIL YOUR STUBBORNNESS FORCED ME TO MAKE A DEAL WITH DR. EGGMAN. I WAS FIRED. I WAS DISGRACED.
"I WAS LEFT ON THE STREETS WITH NO HOPE. I HAD NO DIRECTION.
"I COULDN'T EVEN GET ANYWHERE IN THAT FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP WHERE YOUR BUDDY EMERL WENT BERSERK."

I HAD EVERYTHING. BECAUSE OF YOU, I LOST EVERY-THING. BECAUSE OF YOU, I--

KNOCK IT OFF AND GET ON WITH IT, JEROME!
EEP! YESSIR!

MY NAME IS JEROME WISE. AND I CAME UP WITH THE NAME OF OUR SHADOWY ORGANIZATION.

HOO-BOY! THIS OUGHT TO BE GOOD.

WE ARE THE SOCIETY FOR...

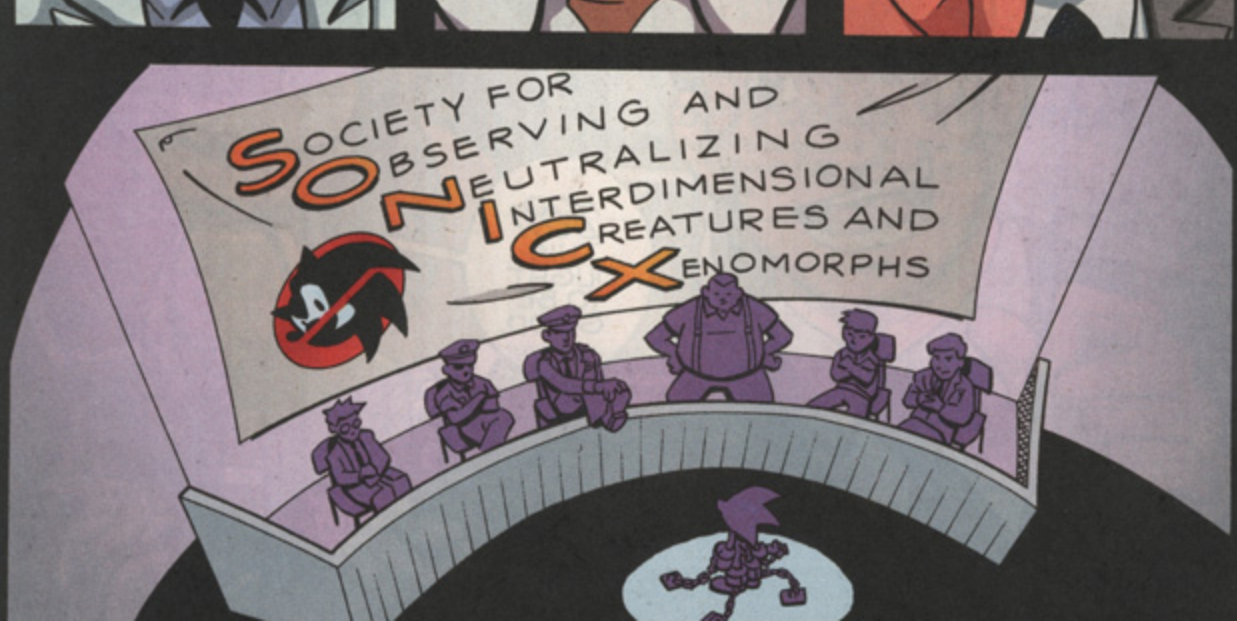
...OBSERVING AND...

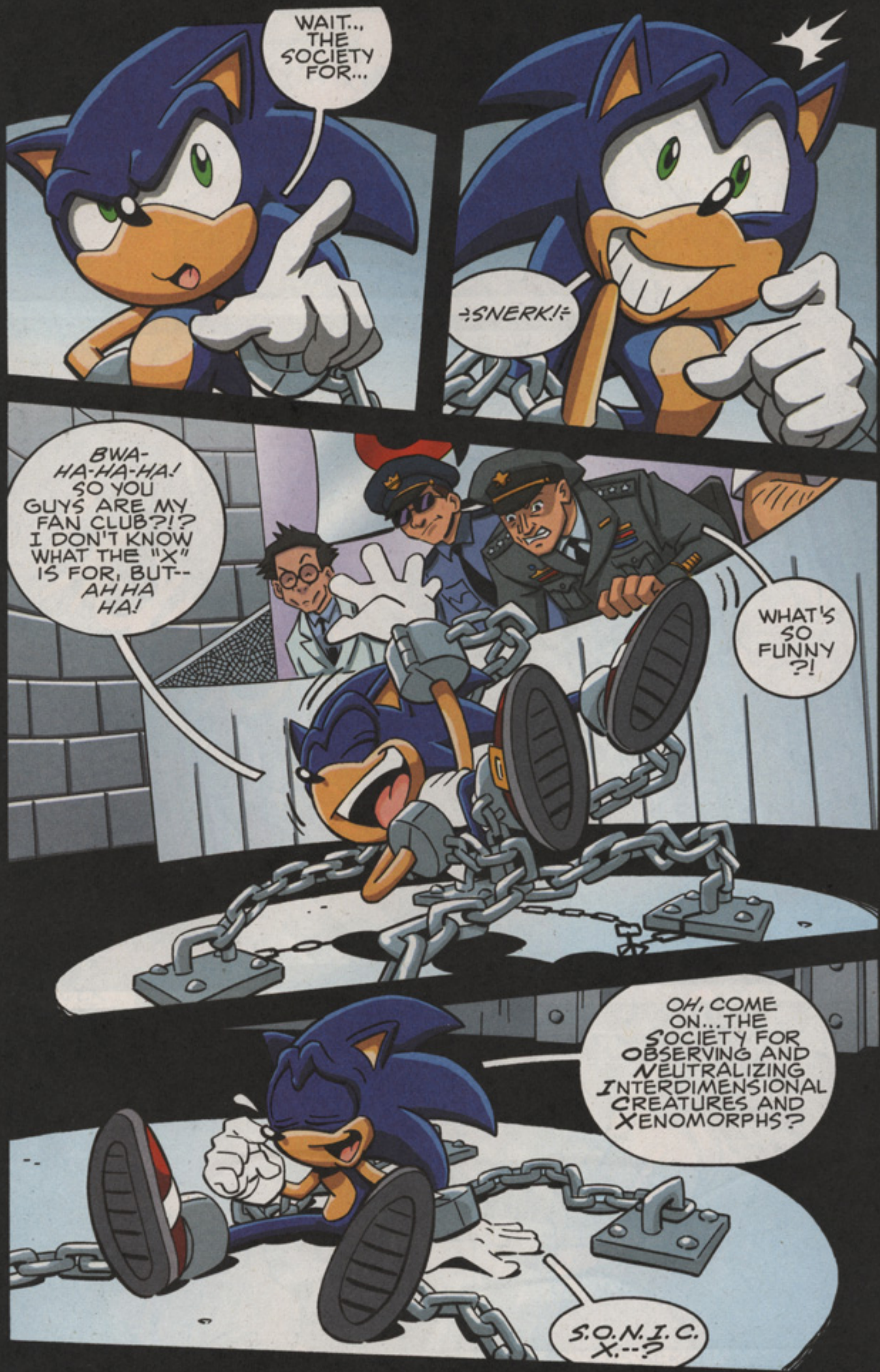
...NEUTRALIZING...

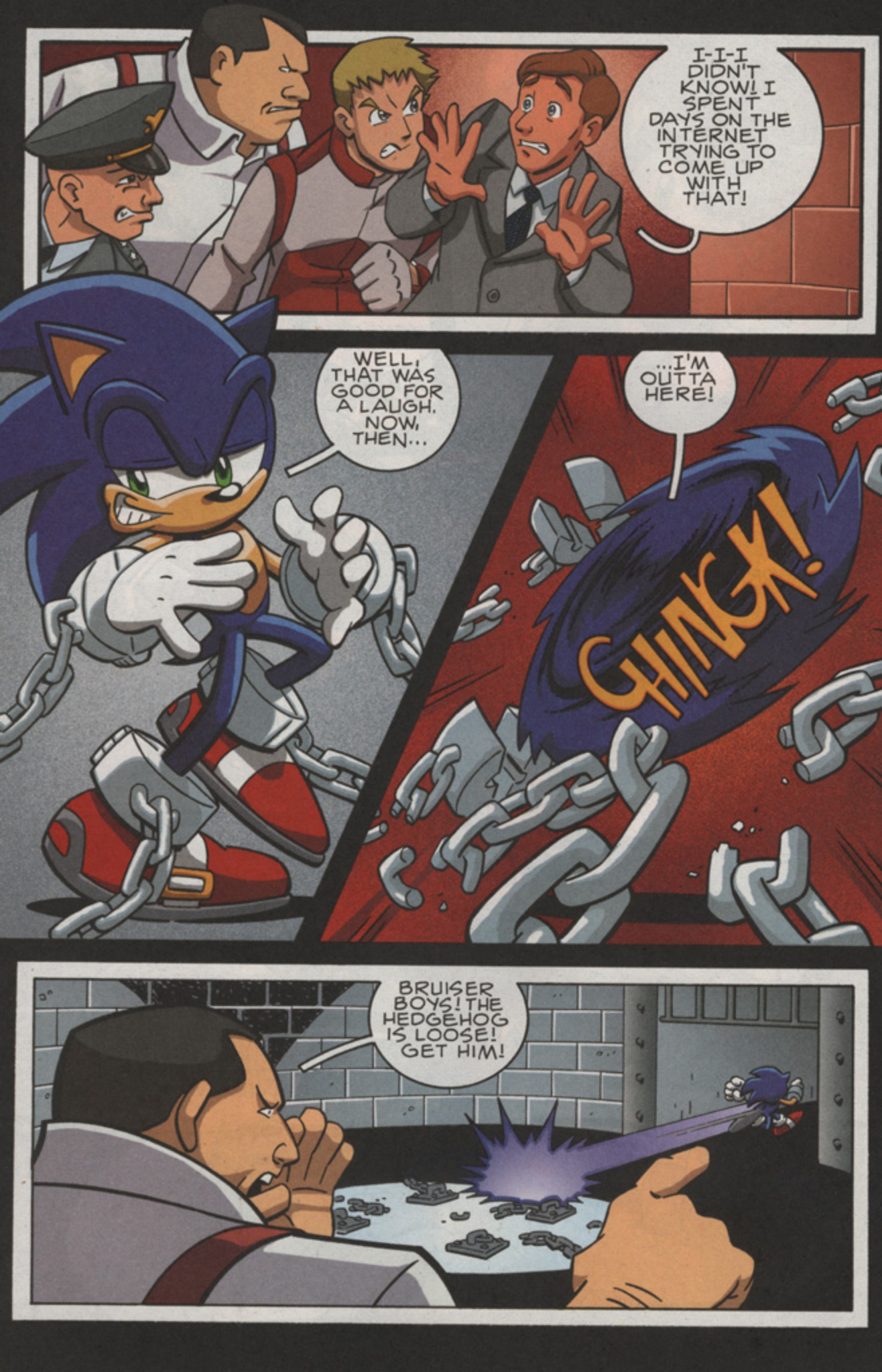
...INTER-DIMENSIONAL...

...CREATURES...

...AND XENOMORPHS.


SOCIETY FOR OBSERVING AND NEUTRALIZING INTERDIMENSIONAL CREATURES AND XENOMORPHS


WAIT... THE SOCIETY FOR...
÷SNERK!÷
BWA-HA-HA-HA! SO YOU GUYS ARE MY FAN CLUB?!? I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE "X" IS FOR, BUT-- AH HA HA!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY ?!
OH, COME ON...THE SOCIETY FOR OBSERVING AND NEUTRALIZING INTERDIMENSIONAL CREATURES AND XENOMORPHS?
S.O.N.I.C. X.--?

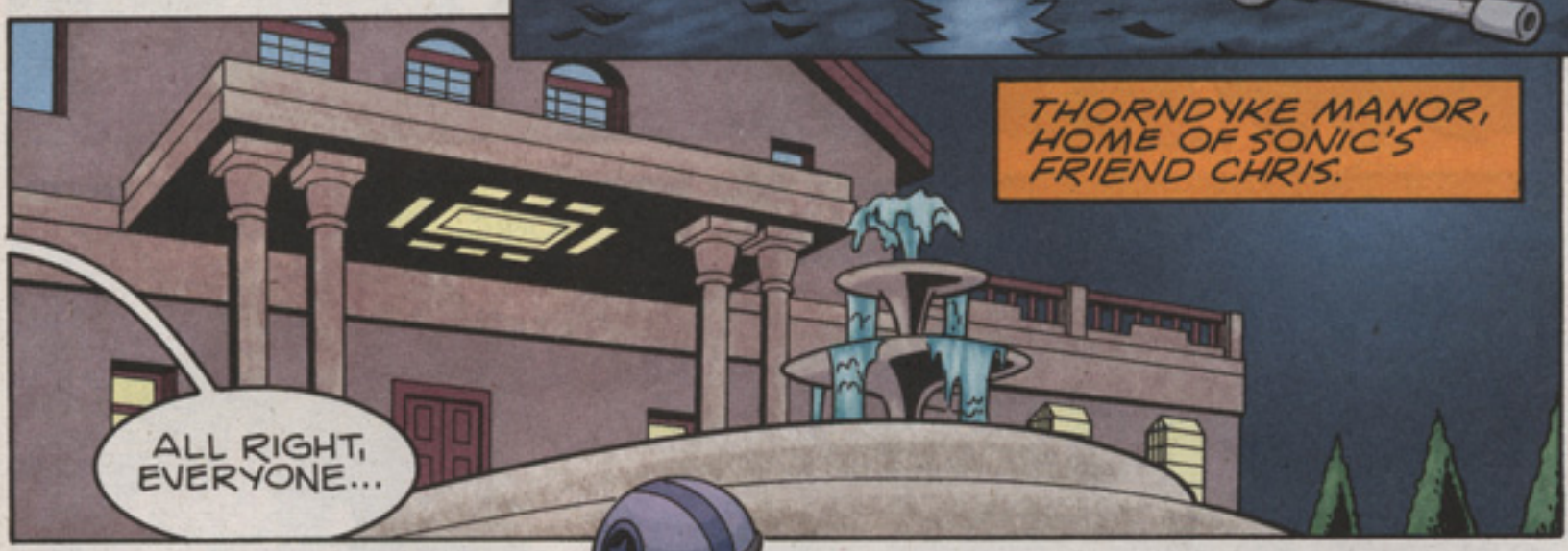

I-I-I DIDN'T KNOW! I SPENT DAYS ON THE INTERNET TRYING TO COME UP WITH THAT!
WELL, THAT WAS GOOD FOR A LAUGH. NOW, THEN...
...I'M OUTTA HERE!
CHINGK!
BRUISER BOYS! THE HEDGEHOG IS LOOSE! GET HIM!

DON'T WORRY, BOSS. HE WON'T GET PAST US!

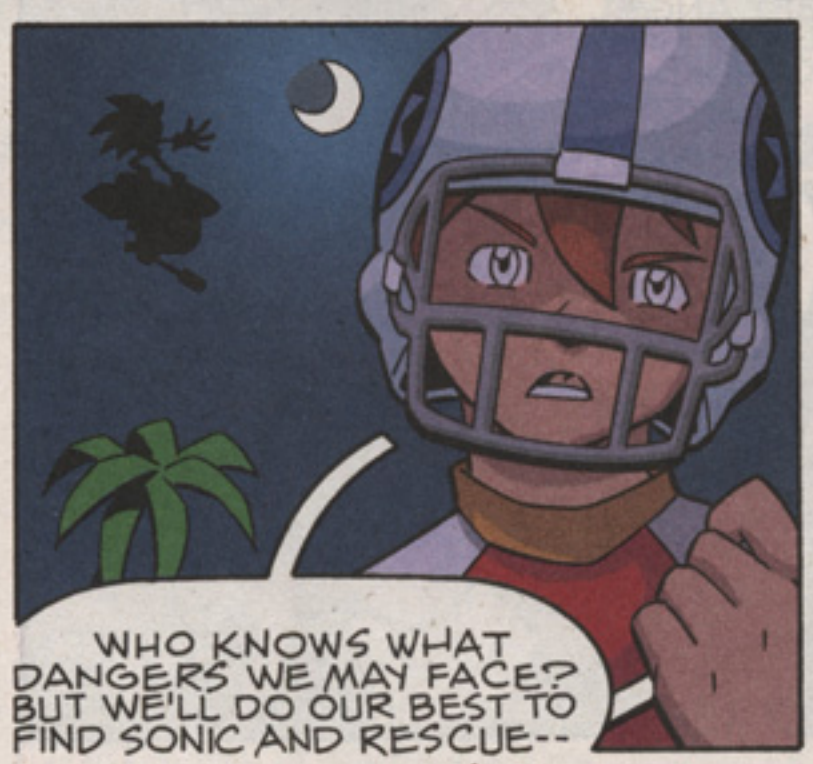
WHAM

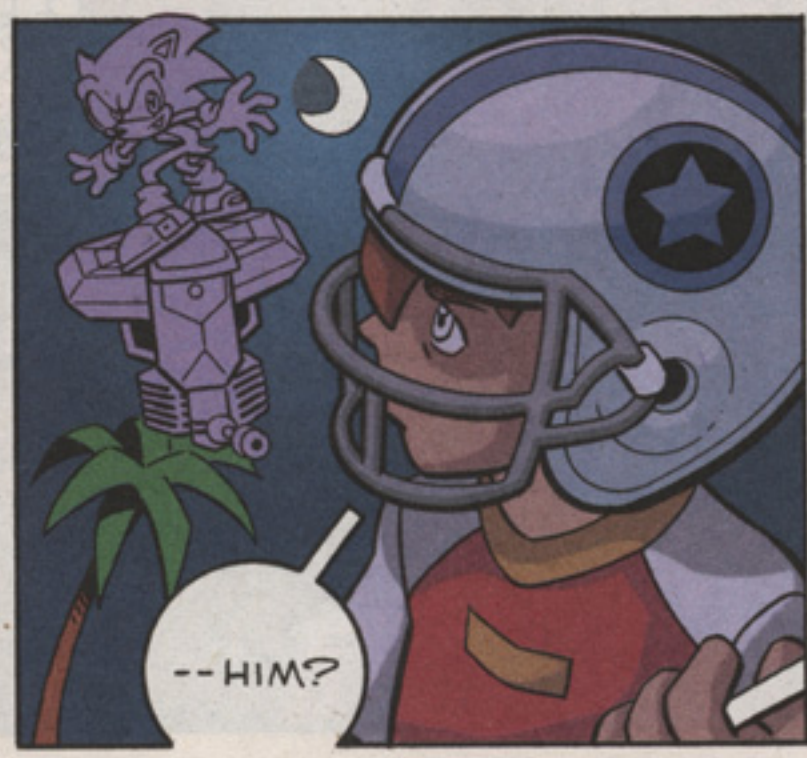
I'VE FILLED MY BEING-CAUGHT QUOTA FOR THE YEAR, WATCHER!
AND YOUR "BEST ROBOTS" LOOK LIKE DR. EGGMAN'S REJECTS!
THANKS FOR THE FUN NIGHT OUT, THOUGH! WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN SOME-TIME.
NOT!

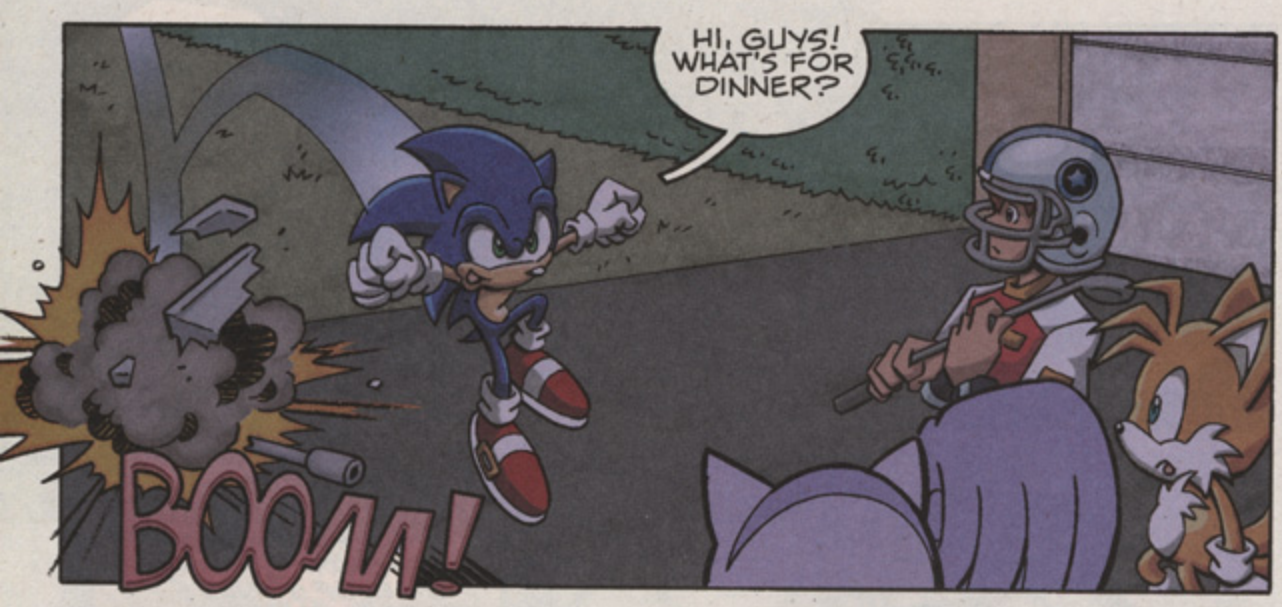
SEE YA! AND THANKS FOR THE RIDE HOME!


THORNDYKE MANOR, HOME OF SONIC'S FRIEND CHRIS.
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE...

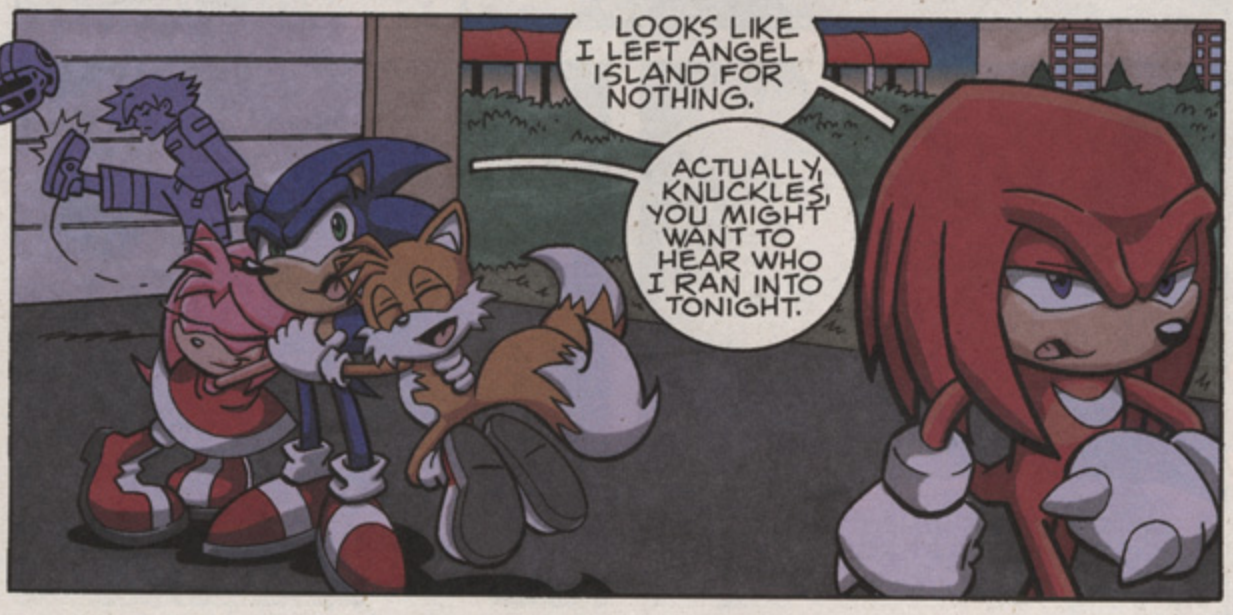
SONIC'S BEEN MISSING SINCE THAT CRAZY CAR CHASE THREE HOURS AGO. WE'RE GOING TO LOAD UP THE X-TORNADO AND SEARCH UNTIL WE FIND HIM!
RIGHT!


WHO KNOWS WHAT DANGERS WE MAY FACE? BUT WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO FIND SONIC AND RESCUE--


--HIM?


HI, GUYS! WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
BOOM!

...I WANTED TO LEAD A MISSION...
SONIC!
YOU'RE OKAY!
OF COURSE I AM!


LOOKS LIKE I LEFT ANGEL ISLAND FOR NOTHING.
ACTUALLY, KNUCKLES, YOU MIGHT WANT TO HEAR WHO I RAN INTO TONIGHT.

AND SO...

THAT'S SO UNFAIR! NONE OF THEIR REASONS ARE REALLY YOUR FAULT!

OR THEY WERE JERKS TO BEGIN WITH!

I'LL NEED TO FIND HAWK AND WARN HIM ABOUT LI YAN. THANKS, SONIC.

SURE THING, KNUCKLES.

IT'LL BE OKAY, THOUGH! WE CAN HANDLE ANYTHING THEY THROW AT US!

I DUNNO, TAILS...

THAT MANY WACKOS WITH ALL THOSE RESOURCES AND CONNECTIONS?

"THEY MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE A REAL THREAT!"

I'M SORRY TO REPORT THAT OUR FIRST MISSION WAS A FAILURE, MISTER ORGANIZER.

NOT ENTIRELY, COMMANDER PASSER.

YOU PROVED YOU COULD CATCH SONIC, AND THAT WE STILL HAVE SOME WEAKNESSES. NEXT TIME WILL GO MUCH BETTER FOR US.

WHO IS THE MYSTERIOUS ORGANIZER? AND WHAT IS S.O.N.I.C.X.'S NEXT MOVE? MAYBE THE ANSWERS LIE IN SONIC'S NEXT ADVENTURE IN SONIC X #24.

AND READ *SONIC THE HEDGEHOG* #178 IN STORES NOW!

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